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KERRIA JAPONICA PLANT NAMED 'FUBUKI NISHIKI'

5 CLASSIFICATION

The present invention relates to a new *Kerria japonica* (L.) DC [*Corchorus japonicus* Thunb.] plant.

VARIETY DENOMINATION

10 The new plant has the varietal denomination 'FUBUKI NISHIKI'.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety  
15 of *Kerria japonica* (L.) DC [*Corchorus japonicus* Thunb.], which was discovered as a branch sport in a cultivated area of a controlled planting of from the species *Kerria japonica* (unnamed, unpatented) in Kawaguchi City, Saitama Prefecture, Japan. The varietal denomination of the new variety is 'FUBUKI  
20 NISHIKI'.

The genus *Kerria* is included in the family Rosaceae, which comprises about 100 genera and 2,000 species of herbs, shrubs and trees native mostly to China and Japan. *Kerria* comprises one species, *Kerria japonica* (L.) DC, native to the temperate  
25 regions of eastern Asia, which possesses desirable ornamental characteristics.

*Kerria japonica* is a deciduous shrub with green leaves and glabrous branches. Leaves of the typical species are alternate, oval, long acuminate, serrated on the margins with pinnate  
30 venation. It generally has yellow flowers.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The new variety was discovered as a branch sport and differs from its parent by white flecked variegated foliage,  
35 white and greyed-green striped flowers and slightly larger leaf

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size. Asexual reproduction of the new variety by vegetative  
cuttings, performed in Lewisberry, Pennsylvania and Vacaville,  
5 California have confirmed that the distinctive characteristics  
of the new variety are stable and transmitted to succeeding  
generations, and the new variety reproduces true to type.

COMPARISON WITH PARENTS

10 'FUBUKI NISHIKI' is distinguished from its parent and all  
other varieties of *Kerria japonica* of which I am aware by its  
white flecked variegated foliage, white and greyed-green striped  
flowers and slightly larger leaf size. The parent plant has  
completely green foliage and yellow flowers.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATIONS

5 The accompanying illustrations show a specimen of the new  
cultivar in a photo illustration as true to color as is  
reasonably possible to make in an illustration of this  
character.

FIG. 1 illustrates the distinctive variegated foliage of  
'FUBUKI NISHIKI'; and

10 FIG. 2 illustrates the flower of 'FUBUKI NISHIKI'.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5 'FUBUKI NISHIKI' has not been observed under all possible environmental, cultural and light conditions. The following observations and descriptions are of plants grown in Vacaville, California and Lewisberry, Pennsylvania. In this description, color references are to *The Royal Horticultural Society Colour*  
10 *Chart* (1995) and terminology used in the color descriptions herein refers to plate numbers in this color chart. Phenotypic expression may vary with light intensity, cultural and environmental conditions.

15 CLASSIFICATION

Botanical: *Kerria japonica* (L.) DC.  
[*Corchorus japonicus* Thunb.]

Parentage: Branch sport from the species

20 Propagation: Stem cuttings

PLANT

Size: About 2 m tall; about 3 m across

Habit: Upright; multi-branched shrub  
25 when young, with an increasingly spreading and pendulous habit in its second year of growth

Branching

Lateral Branches: Numerous, obliquely upright  
30 becoming pendant with age

Typical Number

Branches: 10 to 20

Observed Number

Branches: 19

35 Size

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Length: About 1 m long

5 Diameter: About 5 to 6 mm at base

Color: Near 139C

New Shoots: Near 139C

**LEAF**

10 Shape: Ovate to oblong; leaf tip long;  
acuminate occasionally hooked;  
leaf base mostly cuneate to  
obtuse and occasionally cordate  
or truncate

15 Size: About 5 to 10 cm long and 2.5 to  
5 cm wide. (Parent plant has  
typical leaf size of 3 to 7 cm  
long and 2 to 3.5 cm wide.)

Arrangement: Alternate

20 Margin: Coarsely and irregularly doubly  
serrate

Texture/Substance: Thin, chartaceous

Upper Surface: Glabrous with impressed veins,  
nearly bullate

25 Under Side: Glabrous to slightly pubescent  
with prominent veins

**VARIEGATION PATTERN**

30 Flecked, splashed, and mottled in a random pattern. Areas  
of variegation are frequently long and narrow, parallel to the  
side veins of the leaf. There are additional smaller areas of  
variegation that show no consistent shape and are randomly  
distributed across the leaf. The variegation typically covers  
25% to 50% of the leaf surface. Although the pattern of  
35 variegation is random, every leaf displays noticeable patterns

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of variegation. Foliage holds the initial variegation from emergence through the growing season.

5     Young Foliage

Green Sections

Upper Side:                      Near 143A

Under Side:                      Near 143B

10    Variegated Sections

Upper Side:                      Between 196C and 196D, and near 155B

Under Side:                      Near 196D

Mature Foliage

15    Green Sections

Upper Side:                      Near 143A

Under Side:                      Near 143B

Variegated Sections

20    Upper Side:                      Between 196C and 196D, and near 155B

Under Side:                      Near 196D

Venation Pattern:                Alternately pinnate depressed above, raised beneath

25    Petiole

Size:                              Between about 0.5 to 1.5 cm

Coloration:                      Near 143A

Texture:                          Smooth

30    Internodes:                      Between about 1 to 8 cm

Hardiness:                        USDA Zone 5 (20°F to -10°F)

Vigor:                              Rapid growth rate

Pests/Diseases:                  No pest or disease problems noted

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INFLORESCENCE

5 Bloom Period  
    Outdoors: March to May  
    Greenhouse: Not observed in greenhouse  
                    conditions  
    Flower: Rotate  
10 Arrangement: Solitary, terminal on lateral  
                    branchlets  
    Size: About 3.5 cm wide  
    Shape of Inflorescence: Solitary, terminal on lateral  
                                branchlets  
15 Fragrance: None noted  
    Lastingness of  
    individual blooms: Between 3 to 5 days  
    Flower Petals  
20 Typical Number: About 5  
    Observed Number: About 5  
    Shape: Ovate  
        Apex: Retuse occasionally apiculate  
        Base: Abruptly attenuate  
25 Size: About 16 mm long; about 7 mm  
            wide  
    Margin: Entire and smooth, often  
            undulate  
30 Curvature: Slightly inwardly cupped  
    Arrangement: Rotate  
    Color  
        Background color: Near 145B

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5                      Variegated section:  
Between 196C to 196D, with occasional yellow near 11B; occasional random markings or stripes parallel to the long axis of the petal, occasional marginal variegation

10              Sepals  
                 Shape:                      Pointed  
                 Color

                 Background color:  
                 Variegation color:  
15                      Near 194A  
                 Near 155B

REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

                 Androecium  
20              Stamens:                      Between about 30-40  
                 Anther

                 Shape:                      Club shaped  
                 Color:                      Near 11B  
                 Pollen amount:                      Voluminous  
25              Color:                      Near 11B

                 Gynoecium  
                 Pistil count:                      About 5  
                 Length:                      About 2 mm

30              Stigma Color:                      Near 11B  
                 Style Color:                      Near 11B

                 Ovary Color:                      Near 11B  
35              Fruit Type:                      Achene



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I CLAIM:

5 A new plant variety of *Kerria japonica* of the variety  
substantially as shown and described.

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ABSTRACT

5 A new plant variety of *Kerria japonica* characterized by  
white flecked variegated foliage, white and greyed-green striped  
flowers and slightly larger leaf size.

10

VGG/11b

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